

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

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FM USDEL SALT TWO II

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1939

S E C R E T USDEL SALT TWO II 0154

EXDIS SALT

DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT FOR SECDEF

E. O. 11652: XGDSI

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON APRIL 10 MEETING

1. AT TODAY' S MEETING SEMENOV OPENED WITH LONG PREPARED STATEMENT EXTOLLING VIRTUES OF DOCUMENT THEY HAD TABLED AT APRIL 6 MEETING, AND ALSO INCORPORATING PRIVATE COMMENTS THAT HE HAD MADE AT LAST PRIVATE MEETING ON THEIR CONCEPT THAT UNDERSTANDINGS OR AGREEMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS IN THE DOCUMENT COULD BE ENTERED INTO AND COME INTO EFFECT PENDING COMPLETION OF THE OVERALL PERMANENT AGREEMENT. SECOND PART OF STATEMENT WAS ALMOST VERBATIM REPETITION OF CHARGES THAT HE HAD MADE AT PRIVATE MEETING WITH ME ON APRIL 5 OF US ACCELERATION OF BUILD- UP OF STRATEGIC NUCLEAR PROGRAMS. ONLY NUANCE OR CHANGE WAS ABSENCE IN TODAY' S STATEMENT OF " NEW" WITH REFERENCE TO THESE PROGRAMS. IN CONCLUSION OF THIS PORTION HE ALSO ADDED, " SUCH FACTS CANNOT REMAIN UNOBSERVED AND CANNOT BUT EVOKE A CORRESPONDING REACTION".

2. NEXT PORTION OF STATEMENT WAS ON NON- TRANSFER, ALSO VERY CLOSELY HEWING TO LINE THAT HE HAD TAKEN IN PRIVATE TALK WITH ME ON APRIL 5. HIS STATEMENT ALSO INCORPORATED LANGUAGE OF PROPOSAL

CONTAINED IN STATEMENT MADE BY GRINEVSKY AT DEC 15 MEETING.

3. LAST PART OF HIS STATEMENT SAID THAT US APPROACH, WHWGMILS DOWN TOWT

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DLTHE STRATEGIC SITUATION,
WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

4. IN EXTEMPORANEOUS RESPONSE C STRUCK BWQ HARD SAYING I COULD NOT
ACCEPT PREMISE THAT US HAD ACCELERATED STRATEGIC PROGRAMS-- WE
WDREO
CONTINUING IN ORDERLY MANNER PROGRAMS ALREADY IN EXISTENCE AT TIME
OF MAY 1972 AGREEMENT-- AND I ALSO COULD NOT ACCEPT THAT THERE WAS
COMETHING REPREHENSIBLE IN US CONTINUING ITS ONGOING PROGRAMS IN
THE FACE OF THE CONTINUATION BY THE SOVIET UNION OF ITS PROGRAMS
FOR NEW BOMBERS, NEW AND IMPROVED ICBMS, NEW SUBMARINES AND NEW
LONG RANGE SLBMS. I THEN SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH I MIGHT BE WRONG, I
FELT THAT I HAD DETECTED SOME IMPLICATION IN HIS STATEMENT ON NON-
TRANSFER THAT THE US WAS PRESENTLY VIOLATING EXISTING AGREEMENTS
INCLUDING NPT. IF THERE WAS SUCH AN IMPLICATION I WANTED TO CAT-
EGORICALLY REJECT THAT THE US HAD OR WOULD IN ANY WAY VIOLATE ANY
INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. THEN, TYING IT TO LAST PORTION OF HIS
STATEMENT, I MADE MY PREPARED STATEMENT, COMPARING OUR POSITION
ON ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE TO ABM TREATY, REPEATING OUR ASSERTION
ON ASYMMETRIES IN NON- CENTRAL SYSTEMS NOT BEING IN OUR FAVOR AND
THEN STATING THAT I MUST MAKE IT CLEAR THAT " IN THE ABSENCE OF
ESSENTIAL EQUIVALENCE IN CENTRAL STRATEGIC SYSTEMS RESULTING IN A
SITUATION OF UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE FOR THE SOVIET UNION, I DO NOT
SEE THE POSSIBILITY OF REACHING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PERMANENT
AGREEMENT."

5. SEMENOV MADE NO REPLY WHATEVER AT TABLE AND IN FOLLOWING PRIVATE
CONVERSATION SAID THAT HE HAD NOT INTENDED IN IS STATEMENT TODAY TO
MAKE " ANY REPROACHES OR ACCUSATIONS" AGAINST US AND THAT PERHAPS I
HAD MISUNDERSTOOD EXACTLY WHAT HE HAD SAID ON THE SUBJECT OF NON-
TRANSFER. (A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE TEXT INDICATES THAT TECHNICALLY
HE WAS RIGHT.) OTHER MEMBERS OF SOVDEL PRIVATELY REASSURED USDEL
MEMBERS THAT NO CHARGES OF US VIOLATIONS OF EXISTING TREATIES WERE
INTENDED. JOHNSON

NOTE BY OCT: USDEL SALT TWO II 0154; TEXT AS RECEIVED; CORRECTION TO
FOLLOW.
SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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